

# African American Women-Owned Businesses

2012

## Numbers and Characteristics

- ★ There are 911,728 African American women-owned businesses<sup>1</sup> in the United States. This reflects a tremendous 66.7% increase in number since 2002 and a 191.4% increase since 1997. In comparison, African American men-owned businesses grew 93.1% from 1997 to 2007.
- ★ African American women-owned firms across the country have total receipts of \$36.8 billion. The total receipts of African American women-owned firms grew 78.1% since 2002.
- ★ Women-owned firms make up 47.4% of all African American nonfarm businesses across the country.
- ★ A full 96.5% of these firms are non-employer firms, with average receipts of \$15,618.
- ★ The remaining 3.5% of the firms have paid employees, employing a total of 245,474 people across the country with a payroll of \$5.6 billion. These employer firms have average receipts of \$718,374.

## Geography

- ★ Slightly more than one in 10 (11.7%) of all women-owned firms across the country are owned by African American women.
- ★ The South has the highest representation (17.2%) followed by the Midwest and Northeast (both 11.1%), and the West (4.4%).
- ★ The states with the largest number of African American women-owned businesses are: New York (98,877), Georgia (88,920), and Florida (86,001).

## Industry

- ★ The top industries for African American women include: health care and social assistance (32.3% of all African American WOBs are in this sector), other services (23.0%), and administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (9.8%).
- ★ Industries least represented by African American WOBs include management of companies and enterprises (less than .01%), utilities (.04%), agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (.08%), and manufacturing (.68%).

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The National Women's Business Council is a non-partisan federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations.

**SOURCE:** All data comes from the US Census' 2007 Survey of Business Owners.

<sup>1</sup> Nonfarm businesses only. Women-owned defined as a woman or women owning 51% or more of the company.